

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 145782 TOSEC 070003

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA (VANCE, CYRUS) FR

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FRENCH PRESIDENT VALERY GISCARD
D'ESTAING JUNE 24.

FOLLOWING IS REVISED BRIEFING PAPER FOR SECRETARY'S MEETING
WITH GISCARD D'ESTAING:

PARTICIPANTS

US FRANCE

THE SECRETARY	VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	LOUIS DE GUIRINGAUD
GEORGE VEST	FOREIGN MINISTER
SAMUEL R. GAMMON	FRANCOIS-PONCET, SECRETARY
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES	GENERAL OF THE ELYSEE

ISSUES

1. EAST-WEST RELATIONS
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US OBJECTIVES: TO SEEK FRENCH VIEWS AND INSIGHTS GROWING
OUT OF THE JUST COMPLETED VISIT OF BREZHNEV TO FRANCE.

FRENCH OBJECTIVES: TO BALANCE THE IMPACT OF BREZHNEV'S
VISIT, TO BRIEF YOU ON ITS SUBSTANCE, AND TO SEEK YOUR
UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT FOR ANY INITIATIVES WHICH MAY

HAVE EMERGED.

ESSENTIAL FACTORS: GISCARD'S OVERALL OBJECTIVES IN THE VISIT WERE TO DEMONSTRATE FRANCE'S INDEPENDENCE AND IMPORTANCE AS A WORLD ACTOR; REAFFIRM FRANCE'S SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION; AND TO BOLSTER GISCARD'S FALTERING IMAGE WITH VOTERS OF THE LEFT AS WELL AS THE GAULLIST RIGHT.

RESULTS APPEAR MIXED. BREZHNEV DID NOT SEE FRENCH COMMUNIST CHIEF MARCHAIS AS IN PAST VISITS, BUT HE DID CALL ON GISCARD'S ARCH-RIVAL IN THE MAJORITY, PARIS MAJOR JACQUES CHIRAC. GISCARD MANAGED TO INCLUDE IN THE FINAL DECLARATION THE NEED TO ADAPT THE ACTIONS OF ALL STATES IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF DETENTE AND TO RESPECT THE INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF AFRICAN STATES. BUT GISCARD'S FIRST-DAY EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AS A BASIC PRINCIPLE OF SOVIET-FRENCH RELATIONS AND DETENTE DID NOT EMERGE SO CATEGORICALLY IN THE FINAL DECLARATION. NEITHER IS IT CLEAR ON FIRST READING WHETHER IN FACT FRANCE SURFACED WITH BREZHNEV ITS POSSIBLE WILLINGNESS TO JOIN THE UN DISARMAMENT COMMISSION (CCD) IN GENEVA IF THE CURRENT US-SOVIET CO-CHAIRMANSHIP IS REVISED.

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-- WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN YOUR PERSONAL VIEWS OF THE OUTCOME OF THE BREZHNEV VISIT.

-- (IF GISCARD INDICATES INTEREST IN JOINING THE UN COMMISSION ON DISARMAMENT) THE US WOULD WELCOME FRANCE'S PARTICIPATION AND WOULD BE WILLING TO WORK WITH FRANCE TO SEE IF A SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENT CAN BE ARRIVED AT WITH RESPECT TO THE CO-CHAIRMANSHIP.

2. THE BARRE VISIT

AS YOU KNOW PRIME MINISTER BARRE HAS BEEN INVITED FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT BY PRESIDENT CARTER. AFTER WE SUGGESTED AUGUST 24 AND 25, BARRE'S OFFICE COUNTERED BY PROPOSING SEPTEMBER 8-9, 19-20, OR 22-23, ON GROUNDS THAT HE MUST REMAIN IN FRANCE WHILE GISCARD IS ON VACATION. BARRE MAY ALSO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE LACK OF PUBLIC IMPACT SUCH A VISIT WOULD HAVE IN FRANCE DURING THE TRADITIONAL AUGUST

HOLIDAYS. THE WHITE HOUSE HAS INFORMED US THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE IS HEAVILY COMMITTED DURING SEPTEMBER AND RECOM-

MENDS THE WEEK OF AUGUST 8, OR SOME TIME AFTER SEPTEMBER
AS POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES TO LATE AUGUST.

POINTS TO BE MADE

-- WE VERY MUCH LOOK FORWARD TO MR. BARRE'S VISIT AS
EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

-- WE REGRET THAT THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE IS HEAVILY
COMMITTED DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.

-- WE PROPOSE THE WEEK OF AUGUST 8 AS A POSSIBLE ALTERNA-
TIVE TO LATE AUGUST, OR WE COULD TRY TO ARRANGE A TIME SOON
AFTER SEPTEMBER, IF MR. BARRE PREFERS.
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3. CONCORDE (NO CHANGES MADE IN THIS SECTION)

4. NON-PROLIFERATION - PLEASE REFER TO SEPARATE BRIEFING
PAPER PREPARED ON THIS SUBJECT.

5. CSCE

THE FRENCH HAVE PARTICIPATED FULLY IN PRE-BELGRADE CONSUL-
TATIONS AT NATO. THEY HAVE TOLD US THAT WHILE THEY WILL
CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NATO CAUCUS AT THE BELGRADE
PREPARATORY MEETING, THEY WILL NOT DO SO "AUTOMATICALLY".
THIS MEASURE IS EVIDENTLY FOR OPTICAL REASONS, DESIGNED AS
A GESTURE TO THE SOVIETS IN ANTICIPATION OF THE BREZHNEV
VISIT TO PARIS. IT PROBABLY WILL NOT HAVE A SUBSTANTIVE
EFFECT ON ALLIANCE CONSULTATIONS AT BELGRADE.

POINTS TO BE MADE:

-- THE PROCEEDINGS AT BELGRADE HAVE GONE WELL SO FAR. A
DISCUSSION ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES HAS NOT DEVELOPED AND WORK
IS FOCUSED ON THE AGENDA, RULES OF PROCEDURE, AND DATE AND
DURATION FOR THE MAIN MEETING. THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT
AMONG THE ALLIES AND WESTERN NEUTRALS ON THESE ISSUES, AND
WE HOPE FOR A SATISFACTORY OUTCOME.

-- OUR PRIMARY INTEREST LIES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
FINAL ACT PROVISIONS. AT THE MAIN MEETING THERE SHOULD BE
AN HONEST IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW. A FEW NEW PROPOSALS
MAY ALSO BE SUBMITTED. BOTH THE REVIEW AND THE NEW
PROPOSALS WOULD ENCOURAGE FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION.

-- OUR CONSULTATIONS AT NATO ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE
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FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS HAVE BEEN EXCELLENT. WE LOOK FORWARD
TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH YOUR DELEGATION IN BELGRADE. CHRISTOPHER

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